

Policy & Procedure (P&P)

Policy Title :

Testing Freezer Alarms

Department	Index No.	Scope
Laboratory & Blood Bank	LAB-102	Blood Bank Staff
Issue Date	Revision NO	Effective Date
27/10/1432	2	23/07/1440
Review Due Date	Related Standard NO.	Page Number#
23/07/1442	CBAHI (LB .58)	2

01. Policy:

- 01.1. Blood storage refrigerators and freezers are equipped with a system for continuous temperature monitoring and an audible alarm. In the event that a storage unit goes into alarm, it is essential that personnel know the appropriate actions to take. Personnel are trained to initiate these actions if the temperature cannot be corrected rapidly. The alarm on each storage unit is checked periodically for proper functioning.

02. Definition:

- 02.1. N/A

03. Purpose :

- 03.1. The maintenance of temperature is very vital in Blood Bank for all the equipment used for storage of blood /blood components as stability & safety of blood products is temperature dependent.

04. Procedure :

- 04.1. Protect frozen components from exposure to elevated temperatures during the test.
- 04.2. Use a thermometer or thermocouple, independent from that built into the system, that will accurately indicate the temperature of alarm activation. Compare these readings with the temperatures registered on the recorder.
- 04.3. Warm the alarm probe and thermometer slowly (e.g., in warm water, by an oven-mitt-covered hand, exposure to air). The specific temperature of activation cannot be determined accurately during rapid warming, and the apparent temperature of activation will be too high.

- 04.4. Record the temperature at which the alarm sounds, the date of testing, the identity of the person performing the test, the identity of the freezer and calibrating instrument, and any observations that might suggest impaired activity.
- 04.5. Return the freezer and the alarm system to their normal conditions.
- 04.6. If the alarm sounds at too high a temperature, take appropriate corrective actions such as those suggested by the manufacturer, record the nature of the correction, and repeat the alarm check to document that the corrections were effective.

Notes

Freezer temperatures may rise to unacceptable levels for a variety of reasons. Common causes of rising temperature include:

- Improperly closed freezer door or lid.
- Low level of refrigerant.
- Compressor failure.
- Dirty or blocked heat exchanger.
- Loss of electrical power

06. RESPONSIBILITY

- 06.1. All Blood Bank Staff of Al-Qunfudah General Hospital.

07. EQUIPMENT AND FORMS::

- 07.1. Protection for the freezer contents, eg, a blanket.
- 07.2. Calibrated thermometer or thermocouple independent from that built into the system.
- 07.3. Warm water or an ovenmitt.
- 07.4. Worksheet for recording results.

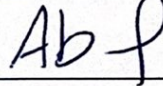
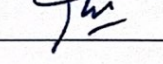
08. Attachment :

N/A

09. Reference

- 09.1. Standards for blood banks and transfusion services, American Association of Blood Banks
- 09.2. A simplified method for monitoring and calibrating refrigerator alarm systems.

Preparation , Reviewing & Approval Box

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